

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: ZAPU UN REPRESENTATIVE HOLDS PRESS CONF. AT UN

1. SUMMARY: ZIMBABWE AFRICAN PEOPLES UNION (ZAPU) UN REPRESENTATIVE DR. CALLISTUS NDLOVU HELD A 40 MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE UN PRESS CORRESPONDENTS AUGUST 22ND TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED ALL PARTY CONFERENCE. IN THE PREPARED STATEMENT, DR. NDLOVU EXPRESSES SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE SMITH REGIME'S MOTIVES FOR INDICATING THAT THEY MIGHT BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ALL PARTY CONFERENCE. THE STATEMENT IN FACT SUGGESTS THAT SMITH MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN ORDER TO CONVINCE WESTERN COUNTRIES THAT IT HAS NEGOTIATED IN GOOD FAITH WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ANTICIPATING THE COLLAPSE OF THE TALKS. THE STATEMENT FURTHER IMPLIES THAT IF THAT DOES HAPPEN SMITH'S REGIME
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WOULD GAIN RECOGNITION AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED IF IT CAN BE SHOWN THAT THE TALKS FAILED BECAUSE OF THE INTRANSIGENCE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. ALSO IMPLICIT IN THE STATEMENT WAS THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WILL NOT STAND FOR THE AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE TO BE ORGANIZED AROUND EFFORTS TO AMEND CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT OR TO RECONCILE THEM WITH THE ANGLO-AMERICAN

PROPOSALS. THE STATEMENT POINTS OUT THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT CONSIDERS THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AS THE ONLY BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. AFTER READING THE STATEMENT, DR. NDLOVU ANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR THAT FURTHER DEFINED THE MEANING OF THE STATEMENT.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE ZAPU STATEMENT:

"RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS IN THE RHODESIAN CAPITAL AND LONDON SUGGEST THAT CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE RHODESIAN REGIME ARE NOW GRUDGINGLY WILLING TO ATTEND THE ALL PARTY CONFERENCE WHICH THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, DR. DAVID OWEN HAS BEEN TRYING TO CONVENE SINCE THE RHODESIAN REGIME COOPTED BISHOP MUZOREWA AND MR. NDABANINGI SITHOLE INTO ITS GOVERNMENT. THE FACT THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT NOW SEEMS MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT SUCH A CONFERENCE CONFIRMS WHAT WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID, NAMELY THAT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, NO MOVEMENT OVER THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE SMITH REGIME. KNOWING IAN SMITH, AS WE DO, WE DO NOT SHARE THE OPTIMISM NOW BEING EXPRESSED IN LONDON THAT PROSPECTS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT NOW EXIST JUST BECAUSE MR. SMITH AND HIS COHORTS HAVE SAID THEY MIGHT ATTEND AN ALL PARTY CONFERENCE. IN THE PAST MR. SMITH HAS AGREED TO NEGOTIATE ONLY TO GAIN A TACTICAL ADVANTAGE OVER THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

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ALTHOUGH THE BALANCE OF POWER HAS DECISIVELY TILTED IN FAVOUR OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ON THE BATTLEFIELD, WE ENTERTAIN NO ILLUSIONS ON THE READINESS OF THE RHODESIAN REGIME TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH. THE PRESENT PRE-OCCUPATION OF THE REGIME IS TO GAIN INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ITS SHAM SETTLEMENT OF MARCH 3, 1978. THE SALISBURY REGIME BELIEVES THAT IF IT CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE TALKS AND SUCCEED IN CONVINCING WESTERN COUNTRIES THAT IT HAS NEGOTIATED IN GOOD FAITH, THE COLLAPSE OF SUCH TALKS WOULD RESULT IN THE RECOGNITION OF THE REGIME AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED, PARTICULARLY IF IT CAN BE SHOWN THAT THE TALKS FAILED BECAUSE OF THE 'INTRANSIGENCE' OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. THIS IS WHY THE REGIME IS PRE-DICATING ITS ATTENDANCE OF THE ALL PARTY CONFERENCE ON THE AGENDA OF SUCH A CONFERENCE. THERE IS ALSO A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT THE BRITISH AND THEIR AMERICAN ALLIES MIGHT WANT THE AGENDA OF SUCH A CONFERENCE TO ACCOMMODATE THE DEMANDS OF THE REGIME. IN THAT EVENT, THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE ORGANIZED AROUND EFFORTS TO AMEND CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT OR TO RECONCILE THESE

WITH THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS. SUCH DECEITFUL
MANOEUVRES ON THE PART OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN ALLIES
WOULD CERTAINLY LEAD NOWHERE. WE HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT
EVERY DAY THAT OUR FIGHTING FORCES GAIN GROUND AGAINST
THE ENEMY, ASPECTS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS
THEMSELVES BECOME OUTDATED. BE THAT AS IT MAY, AS OF NOW,
WE STILL CONSIDER THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AS A
BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

WE ARE QUITE CONFIDENT THAT OUR FORCES ARE NOW THOROUGHLY
PREPARED TO BRING DOWN THE RHODESIAN REGIME BY FORCE OF

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ARMS WITHIN TEN MONTHS IF IT SHOULD BECOME NECESSARY TO
FIGHT TO THE FINISH. HOWEVER, WE PREFER TO NEGOTIATE A
SETTLEMENT IF THE OTHER SIDE HAS COME TO TERMS WITH
THE REALITY THAT THEY HAVE LOST THE WAR. NO AMOUNT OF
TRICKERY CAN ALTER THE COURSE OF THE WAR LEADING TO
TOTAL COLLAPSE OF THE RHODESIAN REGIME AT THIS STAGE.
WHAT RHODESIAN SETTLERS NEED TODAY ARE LEADERS THAT HAVE
ENOUGH SENSE TO UNDERSTAND THE REALITY THAT THEY HAVE
MUCH MORE TO LOSE BY CLINGING TO A SINKING SHIP THAT THE
RHODESIAN REGIME IS. THOSE SETTLERS THAT ARE
PSYCHOLOGICALLY PREPARED FOR THE CHANGES THAT WE ARE

BRINGING TO ZIMBABWE, HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. IN FACT SUCH PEOPLE WILL CEASE TO BE SETTLERS ON THE DAY ZIMBABWE BECOMES INDEPENDENT, BECAUSE DIFFERENTIATION OF PEOPLE IN ZIMBABWE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOUR, OR HISTORY, WILL COME TO AN UNCLASSIFIED

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END WITH THE DEMISE OF RHODESIA.

WE CALL UPON ALL SUPPORTERS OF THE SMITH REGIME IN THE WEST TO UNDERSTAND THAT, IN FACT, IT IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE RHODESIAN WHITES FOR THESE WESTERN ELEMENTS TO CONTINUE TO CALL FOR THE RECOGNITION OF THE SO CALLED INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN TOTALLY REJECTED BY THE AFRICAN MAJORITY. WHAT THESE SUPPORTERS OF SMITH SHOULD BE DOING NOW, IS TO TELL SMITH TO NEGOTIATE A TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT NOW BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE TO DO SO. SHOTGUN TACTICS LIKE TRYING TO LIFT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST THE REGIME CANNOT SAVE THAT REGIME. WE HOPE THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE STILL CAPABLE OF SEEING SENSE NOW, BECAUSE TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR SALISBURY."

3. DURING THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD, DR. NDLOVU MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, AS THE LEADING AUTHORITY, MUST TRANSFER POWER TO ZIMBABWE AND RETURN THE COUNTRY TO LAW AND ORDER THEN ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD WITH NOBODY EXCLUDED. DURING THE INTERIM THERE SHOULD BE OPEN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ISSUE. THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS THAT WERE ORIGINALLY ACCEPTED AS A BASIS OF NEGOTIATIONS IS OUTDATED AS THE WAR BUILDS UP WHICH IS WHY IT IS INCUMBENT NOW ON THE BRITISH TO MOVE QUICKLY AHEAD. PEOPLE ARE DYING AT THE RATE OF 20 A DAY AND ZAPU WANTS TO AVOID MORE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION. NDLOVU WOULD NOT PREDICT THE SITE, VENUE OR AGENDA BUT REPEATED THAT THE BRITISH MUST MAKE MORE SUBSTANTIVE DECISIONS.

- WHEN ASKED IF NAMIBIA MIGHT BE A FACTOR IN ANY ZIMBABWE SETTLEMENT, HE SAID NAMIBIA IS SOMETHING UNCLASSIFIED

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DIFFERENT -- THE UN IS A LEGAL POWER THERE BUT NOT IN RHODESIA. HE ADDED THAT THE UN PLAYS A TERMINAL RESIDUAL ROLE IN NAMIBIA WHICH IT COULDN'T PLAY IN ZIMBABWE. HE SAID IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE THAT THE UN WOULD HAVE A

PRESENCE THERE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

- IT IS A GOOD SIGN NOW THAT THE BRITISH ARE SAYING THAT THEY WILL HOLD AN ALL PARTY CONFERENCE "WITH OR WITHOUT SMITH" BECAUSE THEY PREVIOUSLY PREDICATED THE CONFERENCE ON IAN SMITH AGREEING TO PARTICIPATE. STATING THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAS LONG AGREED TO THE ALL PARTY CONFERENCE IDEA, NDLOUVU ADDED THAT THE PF WOULD ALSO PARTICIPATE IF THE "THREE BLACK SMITHS" CAME AS PART OF THE SMITH PARTY. ON FURTHER QUESTIONING HE ADMITTED THAT THE PF WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IF THE THREE BLACKS SAT SEPARATELY AT THE CONFERENCE BECAUSE THE PF WOULD CONSIDER AND TREAT THEM AS PART OF THE SMITH PARTY. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE THOUGHT THE BRITISH WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE THREE

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BLACK MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATE AS INDEPENDENT PARTIES AT THE CONFERENCE.

- HE DEPLORED THE SALVATION ARMY WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES SAYING IT IS STUPID TO ALIENATE THEMSELVES FROM THE PEOPLE WHO WILL EVENTUALLY BE IN

POWER.

- IN THE UPCOMING GENERAL ASSERALLY ZAPU WILL PRESS FOR A NEW RESOLUTION THAT IN NO WAY ASSOCIATES WITH THE PRESENT INTERIM GOVERNMENT IN SALISBURY.

- HE SAID 400,000 CHILDREN ARE OUT OF SCHOOL BECAUSE SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN CLOSED IN RHODESIA TO AVOID FURTHER BLOODSHED. HE PREDICTS A CURRENT MINE STRIKE AS JUST THE BEGINNING OF OTHER INCIDENTS IN THAT AREA. AT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SAME TIME ZAPU DOESN'T WANT TO SEE THE STRUGGLE REDUCED TO TERRORISM. ZAPU WANTS A CLINICAL APPROACH USED. HE ADDED THAT ZAPU LEADERS ARE LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY BUT THEY AVOID INCIDENTS AND CLAIMED THAT SALISBURY INCIDENTS UP TO NOW ARE PURELY SELF-DEFENSE AND RURAL AREA INCIDENTS ARE DEFINITELY ON THE OFFENSIVE.

- HE WAS EMPHATIC THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WILL NOT KILL INNOCENT WHITE PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO BE RACISTS TOO. HE DISSAVOWED ANY PATRIOTIC FRONT INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEATHS OF MISSIONARIES. HE CITED AS PROOF THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT IS CONDUCTING THE MASSACRES THAT THOSE MISSIONARIES WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED ARE KNOWN SUPPORTERS AND SYMPATHIZERS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. HE SAID THAT MISSIONARIES WHO ARE PRO SMITH HAVE NOT BEEN TOUCHED AND USED AS AN EXAMPLE, THE DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH.

- HE ADMITTED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN ZIMBABWE ALTHOUGH NOT IN MILITARY UNIFORM AND PREDICATED THIS COULD EXPAND WITH ACTUAL TROOPS IN UNIFORM. HE CAUTIONED THAT IF THEY COME THERE IT WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF SOUTH AFRICA. HE GAVE THE FIGURE OF 1500 AMERICANS AS MERCENARIES ATTACHED TO THE RHODESIAN ARMY AT THIS STAGE, AND SAID PROOF OF IT COMES WITH THE MANY TV INTERVIEWS GIVEN IN THE US BY THOSE MERCENARIES. YOUNG

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